

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

CASE NO. 24-24228-CIV-ALTONAGA/Reid

MEGAN PETE,

Plaintiff,

v.

MILAGRO ELIZABETH
COOPER,

Defendant.

**ORDER SETTING TRIAL AND PRE-TRIAL SCHEDULE, REQUIRING
MEDIATION, AND REFERRING CERTAIN MATTERS TO MAGISTRATE JUDGE**

THIS CAUSE is set for trial during the Court's two-week trial calendar beginning on **September 8, 2025**. Calendar call will be held at **9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, September 2, 2025**. No pre-trial conference will be held unless a party requests one, and the Court determines that one is necessary. The parties shall adhere to the following schedule:

December 9, 2024. The parties shall select a mediator in accordance with Local Rule 16.2; schedule a time, date, and place for mediation; and jointly **file a proposed order scheduling mediation** in the form specified on the Court's website, <http://www.flsd.uscourts.gov>. If the parties cannot agree on a mediator, they shall notify the Clerk in writing as soon as possible, and the Clerk shall designate a certified mediator on a blind rotation basis. Counsel for all parties shall familiarize themselves with and adhere to all provisions of Local Rule 16.2. Within **seven (7) days** of mediation, the parties are required to file a mediation report with the Court. In accordance with the procedures outlined in the CM/ECF Administrative Procedures, the proposed order must be emailed to altonaga@flsd.uscourts.gov in Word format.

December 30, 2024. All motions to amend pleadings or join parties are filed.

April 14, 2025. Parties exchange expert witness summaries or reports.

April 28, 2025. Parties exchange rebuttal expert witness summaries or reports.

May 12, 2025. All discovery, including expert discovery, is completed.¹

May 19, 2025. Parties must have completed mediation and filed a mediation report.

May 27, 2025. All pre-trial motions and *Daubert* motions (which include motions to strike experts) are filed. Each party is limited to filing one *Daubert* motion. If all evidentiary issues cannot be addressed in a 20-page memorandum, leave to exceed the page limit will be granted. **The parties are reminded that *Daubert* motions must contain the Local Rule 7.1(a)(3) certification.**

June 24, 2025. Parties must file and submit a joint pre-trial stipulation, proposed jury instructions and verdict form, or proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law, as applicable, and motions *in limine* (other than *Daubert* motions). Each party is limited to filing one motion *in limine* which may exceed the page limits allowed by the Rules. **The parties are reminded that motions *in limine* must contain the Local Rule 7.1(a)(3) certification.**

Jury Instructions and Verdict Form. The parties shall submit their proposed jury instructions and verdict form jointly, although they need not agree on each proposed instruction. Where the parties do not agree on a proposed instruction, that instruction shall be set forth in bold type. Instructions proposed only by a plaintiff shall be underlined. Instructions proposed only by a defendant shall be italicized. Every instruction must be supported by citation to authority. The parties shall use as a guide the Eleventh Circuit Pattern Jury Instructions for Civil Cases, including the directions to counsel contained therein. Proposed jury instructions and verdict form, in typed form, including substantive charges and defenses, shall be filed and submitted to the Court prior to calendar call, in Word format, via e-mail to altonaga@flsd.uscourts.gov. Instructions for filing proposed documents may be viewed at <http://www.flsd.uscourts.gov>.

Referral to Magistrate Judge. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. section 636 and this District's Magistrate Judge Rules, all discovery matters are referred to Magistrate Judge Lisette M. Reid. Furthermore, in accordance with 28 U.S.C. section 636(c)(1), the parties may consent to trial and

¹ The parties by agreement, and/or Magistrate Judge Reid, may extend this deadline, so long as such extension does not impact any of the other deadlines contained in this Scheduling Order.

final disposition by Magistrate Judge Reid. **The deadline for submitting a consent is May 27, 2025.**

Discovery. The parties may stipulate to extend the time to answer interrogatories, produce documents, and answer requests for admissions. The parties shall not file with the Court notices or motions memorializing any such stipulation unless the stipulation interferes with the deadlines set forth above. Stipulations that would so interfere may be made only with the Court's approval. *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 29. In addition to the documents enumerated in Local Rule 26.1(b), the parties shall not file notices of deposition with the Court. Strict compliance with the Local Rules is expected, particularly with regard to motion practice. *See* S.D. Fla. L.R. 7.1.

Discovery Disputes. The parties shall comply with the discovery procedures provided in the document titled, "Standing Discovery Order for Magistrate Judge Lisette M. Reid," available on the Court's website. **No written discovery motions, including motions to compel, for protective order, or related motions for sanctions shall be filed.** Counsel must actually confer and engage in reasonable compromise in a genuine effort to resolve their discovery disputes before seeking the Court's intervention. The Court may impose sanctions, monetary or otherwise, if it determines discovery is being improperly sought or is being withheld in bad faith. If, after conferring, the parties are unable to resolve their discovery dispute without Court intervention, the moving party must seek relief within fifteen (15) days of the occurrence of the grounds for relief by contacting Judge Reid's Chambers by email and requesting a hearing. The requesting party must send an email to reid@flsd.uscourts.gov in which they shall copy all opposing counsel, provide a brief description of the nature of the dispute, and attach any reliance materials. Specific requirements for that email are outlined in the "Standing Discovery Order for Magistrate Judge Lisette M. Reid" document available on the Court's website.

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DONE AND ORDERED in Miami, Florida, this 19th day of November, 2024.



CECILIA M. ALTONAGA
CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

cc: counsel of record